



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 2, 2016

Mr. David A. Charters, P.E.,  
Manager, Design and Engineering  
GoTriangle  
P.O. Box 13787  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

SUBJECT: Combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD) and §4(f) Evaluation for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) Project, Durham and Orange Counties, North Carolina; ERP No.: FHW-E54014-NC; CEQ No.: 20160041

Dear Mr. Charters:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Office has reviewed the subject document and is commenting in accordance with §309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and §102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

We commend the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and GoTriangle (Triangle Transit Authority) for seeking to improve transit service in Durham and Orange Counties. We hope that as indicated in this and prior documents that these transportation improvements will increase transit ridership, decrease automobile congestion, and lead to regional air quality improvements.

The EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project and provided comments on October 9, 2015. The FEIS addressed most of the concerns that we had identified in our review of the DEIS. The EPA staff has been an active participant on the D-O LRT Technical Advisory Committee for the proposed project, including purpose and need, detailed study alternatives to be carried forward, and alignment review.

We acknowledge the commitments to mitigation measures listed in Table ROD-1. The EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding this proposed project. Dr. Cynthia F. Van Der Wiele of my staff will continue to work with you as part of the D-O LRT Technical Advisory Committee. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please feel free to contact her at [vanderwiele.cynthia@epa.gov](mailto:vanderwiele.cynthia@epa.gov) or (919) 450-6811.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris A.", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher A. Militscher  
Chief, NEPA Program Office

Cc: S.A. Mitchell, FTA, Region IV  
J. Thomas, USACE Raleigh Field Office  
R. Ridings, NCDWR  
G. Jordan, USFWS Raleigh Field Office  
T. Wilson, NCWRC